

Believing that Prayer Is Answered

As we all set hopeful resolutions for a NEW year, a year that we wish will replace and resolve what was turned upside down in 2020, these hoped for changes are noted with much more urgency than in a typical year. Mostly we are concerned with health and the lifestyles of living we have always held as normal and never imagined would ever be disturbed like it has. But, that it was in the year of our Lord 2000 and 20.

What can we do about it? Might we consider the **power** of our prayer? Like you, I believe in a personal God, because I too have had revelations, answers to my questions, to my prayers, and many unexpected movements brought about by Divine Providence. And when the answer fails to come...I have that assurance God gave Saint Paul and he passed on to us, "*My grace is sufficient for you.*" And what is grace? According to Dorothy Day it is "*Participation in the divine life. And that participation means light and understanding and conviction, of course only occasionally, but strong enough to carry us along, to lift us up out of depression, discouragement, uncertainty, doubt....*"

She goes on to say, "*The frustrations that we experience are exercises in faith and hope, which are supernatural virtues. With prayer, one can go on cheerfully and even happily, while without prayer, how grim is the journey. Prayer is as necessary to life as breathing. It is drink and food....*"

On a rainy, gloomy day, we often stay in, avoiding if we can, resting—feeling depressed, even exhausted from accomplishing less than usual. But sorrow, depression, grief, are exhausting. The same emotions are in these days of a pandemic where concern and worry monopolize our thoughts and actions. Will there be an effective vaccine? How soon can we get it? Will we escape becoming infected? Will our family and friends be ok? Will our neighbors practice good enough personal protection and safe distancing? When can we visit in person again? When can we hug and touch? Will we survive? But then at night the prayers, the rosaries that have been said were answered. We made it through another day!

Dorothy Day relates that "*the feeling prayers ARE indeed answered when our cryout for help was a comfort in itself. We have the assurance that they were heard and will be answered, though it might not be right now. We might not perhaps even see the results. Praised be God, the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our afflictions and enables us to comfort those who are in trouble, with the same consolation we have had from him*" (2 Cor. 1:3-4). Suffering draws us to prayer and we are comforted. Or at least strengthened to continue in faith, and hope, and love....

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help us. Lord, hear my prayer, let my cry come to you. "*In you, (says Dorothy Day), have I hoped, let me never be confounded. All I have on earth is you. What do I desire in heaven beside you? And that 'they' should have you, find you, love you too, those you have given us, sent to us, our children, our flesh and blood. May they cry out for the living God.*" No one comes to the Father but through me (Jn 14:6). "*You have said this, Jesus. Draw them, I beg you, I plead with you, so that they will run to the odor of your ointments (Sg 1:3), that they will taste and see that the Lord is sweet (Ps 34:8). Let them seek and find the way, the truth, the light.*"

Come Lord Jesus and reward your peoples hope! (Read Thes 2:19 and Rev 22:7,12,20)

This reflection was inspired by the writings of the Servant of God Dorothy Day. More about her in the printed version. Thanks be to the Trinity in and with us +

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A few quotes from Dorothy Day....

"I have long since come to believe that people never mean half of what they say, and that it is best to disregard their talk and judge only their actions."

"The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us?"

"Don't call me a saint. I don't want to be dismissed so easily."

You might want to read the entire book of **Song of Songs**. Picture Jesus using the words of the groom to talk directly to you with His words of ardent love (denoted by the letter '**G**' in the left margin of some Bibles). Respond to Him by lovingly speaking to Him the words of the bride (denoted by the letter '**B**' in the left margin of some Bibles). kw

The four quoted parts in the text by Dorothy Day:

The quotes from Dorothy Day are taken from our compilation *The Reckless Way of Love*. Since we are not the rights holder, I have noted the original sources below, but I think it is fine if you want to cite us as your source to keep it simple: From Dorothy Day, [*The Reckless Way of Love: Notes on Following Jesus*](#), Copyright 2017 by Plough Publishing House.

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"Participation in the divine life. And that participation means for me light and understanding and conviction, of course only occasionally, but strong enough to carry me along, to lift me up out of depression, discouragement, uncertainty, doubt." [*The Duty of Delight*, 507–8]

"The frustrations that we experience are exercises in faith and hope, which are supernatural virtues. With prayer, one can go on cheerfully and even happily, while without prayer, how grim is the journey. Prayer is as necessary to life as breathing. It is drink and food." [*Loaves and Fishes*, 206]

"I would not perhaps see the results. 'Praised be God, the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our afflictions and enables us to comfort those who are in trouble, with the same consolation we have had from him' (2 Cor. 1:3–4)." [*The Duty of Delight*, 533]

"In thee have I hoped, let me never be confounded. All I have on earth is thee. What do I desire in heaven beside thee? And that "they" should have thee, find thee, love thee too, those you have given us, sent to us, our children, our flesh and blood. May they cry out for the living God. 'No one comes to the Father but through me' (John 14:6). You have said this, Jesus. Draw them, I beg you, I plead with you, so that they 'will run to the odor of your ointments' (Song of Sol. 1:3), that they will 'taste and see that the Lord is sweet' (Ps. 34:8). Let them seek and find the way, the truth, the light. [*The Duty of Delight*, 532–33]"

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